

Minutes
Parks and Recreation Board
January 28, 1992

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, January 28, 1992 in the Board Room at 200 South Lamar. Board Members present: Beverly Griffith, Neil Iscoe, Charlie Gandy, Phil Friday, James Crump, Ron Cartlidge and Albert Black. Board Members absent: Eliza May and Hayden Brooks. Staff present: Manuel A. Mollinedo, Stuart Strong, Peter Marsh, Sarah Campbell, Carolyn Nelson, Heather Peterson, Joe Lessard, Austan Librach, Jody Hamilton and Donna Bohls.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Beverly Griffith, Chair. The minutes of 11/26/91, 12/9/91, 1/13/92 and 1/21/92 were approved as corrected.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Cliff Price, local pediatrician, addressed the Board about organizing a local non-profit foundation to help raise funds for park projects. Dr. Price is working closely with local business and neighborhood leaders to get this project underway.

Howard Barnett, Canoe Rental Concessionaire at Zilker Park, addressed the Board and asked for an extension on his concession agreement. Mr. Barnett lost most of his business equipment during the flood and has applied for a loan from the Small Business Administration to help with rebuilding costs. This request was referred to the Concessions Committee.

Robert Thomas addressed the Board regarding concerns for youth programs and use of minority vendors by the Parks and Recreation Department.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Video by James Crump on Flood Damage to Lake Austin

This item was postponed until the next meeting.

Proposed Plans for Development of Bailey Park

Jim Sustan, Architect, addressed the Board on behalf of St. Andrews School and proposed a plan for additional development in Bailey Park. Board Members requested this to be an item for action at their next meeting.

Proposed Plans for Development of Zachary Scott Theater

Girard Kinney, Architect, addressed the Board on behalf of Zachary Scott Theater and proposed a change to the currently approved masterplan for Zachary Scott. Board Members requested this to be an item for action at their next meeting.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Mrs. Griffith reported that the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission had approved the grant request for Dove Springs Park in the amount of \$500,000. Commissioners are reviewing how state and local parks are funded with state money. This review will have a potential effect on the application for Dick Nichols park scheduled for their next review cycle. Board Members were requested to add this as an action item to the next meeting agenda.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Mollinedo reported that Heather Griffith Peterson will be assisting the Board with the Concessions policy. The Concessions Subcommittee (Neil Iscoe, Charlie Gandy and James Crump) will meet with Heather to work on the policy and get it ready to submit to Council.

Austin and Travis County has been declared a federal disaster area for the public sector. This will assist PARD with needed repair funds.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - ITEMS FOR ACTION

Respond to Council on Concerns Regarding Town Lake Lighting Project

Beverly Griffith opened the discussion for public comment and the following speakers addressed the Board:

Larry Akers, President of Friends of the Parks, spoke in favor of the project. He announced that Paul Carroza at Run Tex had conducted a poll in his place of business and that 33 of 36 respondents favored the lighting. Mr. Akers also answered questions and concerns from the Board.

Diane Weidner spoke against the project and asked the Board to reinforce their resolution against the project.

Edward Dato spoke against the lighting project.

Louis Corenblith spoke against the lighting project and asked the Board to stand by their previous vote.

Arne Villarreal, President of the Austin Rowers Club, spoke against the project and any development in the area.

Cecilia Games spoke against the lighting project, the RUDAT report and the Town Lake Comprehensive Plan.

Claudia Siegel spoke against the lighting project.

Charlotte Llanes spoke against the lighting project and the Town Lake Comprehensive Plan.

Louise Hasty, Daniel Traverso and Madeleine Albert spoke against the lighting project.

John Hamilton, Chairman of Friends of the Parks, spoke in favor of the lighting project and recommended approval of the contract.

Carol Wright, Robert Singleton and Carol Fox spoke against the lighting project.

Citizen input was closed at 8:40 with all speakers having been recognized. Board Members requested to receive a copy of the Town Lake Comprehensive Plan for further study.

Neil Iscoe moved and Phil Friday seconded the following motion:

Whereas the Parks and Recreation Board has reconsidered the Friends of the Parks lighting proposal; and

Whereas after examining information presented at a meeting on January 28, the Parks and Recreation Board has determined:

- * The natural state of the shores of town lake is an asset of Austin which few cities enjoy.
- * Lights will not increase safety.
- * Testimony indicated that changes in usage patterns may actually lead to additional safety problems.
- * Maintenance issues are still unresolved. Maintenance is not covered in the proposal. Funds do not exist and will force the City to cut other activities in order to maintain and operate the lights.
- * The proposed contract is not sound. It is extremely rare for the Parks and Recreation Department to grant exclusive rights without specific performance guarantees.
- * Questions have been raised concerning the pricing, maintenance, installation and operation of the proposed lights.
- * The citizens of Austin appear to oppose the plan. On January 28, 15 people spoke against the plan and 2 for it. At a public hearing on January 21, 21 people spoke against and 5 for the plan. Save Barton Creek, Austin Neighborhoods Council, SANE, and the Austin Rowers Club took positions against the proposal.

THEREFORE, the Parks and Recreation Board stands by their original position.

The motion passed unanimously.

Approve Annual Report Workplan and Initiatives for 1992

This agenda item was postponed to the next meeting.

Approve resolution recommending authorizing Director of Parks and Recreation Department to implement emergency procedures on Lake Austin and Town Lake

This agenda item was postponed to the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Naming of Flying Field at Lake Walter E. Long Park in Honor of Mr. Charles H. Lester, Lester Field.

James Crump moved and Ron Cartlidge seconded the motion to name the flying field at Lake Water E. Long Park, Lester Field. The motion passed unanimously.

Approve authorizing City Manager to enter into a letter of intent with Texas Nature Conservancy of Texas regarding potential purchase of properties for Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan and approve acquisition of tracts of land totalling 371 acres in the upper Bull Creek Watershed

Phil Friday moved and Ron Cartlidge seconded a motion to recommend to Council to purchase the 151 acre Franklin Federal tract currently under option by the Texas Nature Conservancy.

The motion passed unanimously.

James Crump moved and Charlie Gandy seconded a companion motion which stated:

Whereas the Bull Creek Greenbelt is a wilderness jewel and will possibly equal the Barton Creek Greenbelt.

Whereas funding and priorities are always an issue of concern.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Parks and Recreation Board desires to continue land acquisition in the Bull Creek Greenbelt for completion of the greenbelt. The Parks and Recreation Board recommends to Council that the City acquire such lands as necessary to complete the Bull Creek Greenbelt.

The motion passed unanimously.

Approve acceptance of grant in the amount of \$1,900 from the Texas Commission on the Arts for a traveling visual arts exhibit on design excellence for Art in Public Places

Phil Friday moved and James Crump seconded a motion to recommend to Council the acceptance of a \$1,900 grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts. The motion passed unanimously.

Approve Acceptance of a grant in the amount of \$1,217 from the Texas Committee on the Humanities for a lecture and exhibit related to O. Henry

Phil Friday moved and James Crump seconded a motion to recommend to Council the acceptance of a \$1,217 grant from the Texas Committee on the Humanities. The motion passed unanimously.

Approve construction of a covered single slip boat dock at 1318 Rockcliff Road (file no. SP-92-0008DS)

This request was submitted by Rusty Signor, on behalf of Russell Apfel. Ron Cartlidge, Chair of the Navigation Committee, reported that the Navigation Committee had reviewed this request and recommended approval with the condition that the overall length of the dock not exceed 30 feet from the shoreline, which is the concrete bulkhead. The motion passed unanimously.

Approve construction of a covered two slip boat dock at 4207 Waters Edge Cove (file no. SP-92-0005DS)

This request was submitted by Rusty Signor, on behalf of Robert Willenzik. Ron Cartlidge, Chair of the Navigation Committee, reported that the Navigation Committee had reviewed this request and recommended approval. The motion passed unanimously.

Approve resolution thanking Friends of the Parks

James Crump moved and Ron Cartlidge seconded a motion to express thanks to the Friends of the Parks for all of their support and hard work. Phil Friday was requested to complete the wording of the final resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Charlie Gandy asked that an agenda item for the next meeting would be to send a letter to the owner of the new Taco Cabana franchise at Lamar and Riverside Dr. regarding the color his franchise would be painted.

There being no further business, the meeting stood adjourned.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC HEARING
ON IMPROVEMENTS TO TOWN LAKE TRAIL

The Parks and Recreation Board will be holding a public hearing on Tuesday, February 25, 1992 at 7:00 PM in the Board Room at the Parks and Recreation Department Main Office, 200 S. Lamar Blvd.

The Board is interested in hearing what improvements to the Town Lake Hike and Bike Trail are most desired. The Friends of the Parks have requested the public hearing to receive suggestions for expenditure of donated funds.

For more information, contact Manuel Mollinedo, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, at 499-6717, Beverly Griffith, Chair, Parks and Recreation Board, at 474-7784 or Larry Akers, President, Friends of the Parks, at 322-9951.

